

The Maze Runner

by James Dashner

A boy wakes up in a sealed crate not knowing anything about himself except for his first name: Thomas. When the crate is cracked open, he emerges to find himself in a village run solely by boys—yet, the village is enclosed by a giant maze. The maze has four giant gates that remain open during the day, but when night falls, so do the gates. And when the gates close, the Grievors emerge: bio-mechanical monsters that roam the Maze for prey. Thomas tries to assimilate into the village while trying to comprehend how he got to where he was. But one job called to him: becoming a Runner. One day, the group leader, Alby, and a fellow Runner, Minho, peculiarly are still out in the maze while the sun was setting. Thomas, in a brash act, slips past the closing gates and traps himself outside the sanctity of the village and into the treacherous maze at night. This would become the beginning of a heart-pounding thriller of survival and mystery as Thomas and Theresa, a girl who mysteriously appeared in the crate, and a cast of unique characters set out to unlock the secrets of the Maze. James Dashner, in his *The Maze Runner*, brilliantly intertwines comedy and horror with his abrasive but humorous characters and exhilarating action scenes. This book has so captured me in its maze that I, in a trance, did not stop reading until I finished it, which happened to be 3 A.M. in the morning.

Reviewed by Sufyan